

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 10796 191322Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----096459 191332Z /50
O 191250Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0019
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 10796

EXDIS -- HANDLE AS NODIS --

STATE FOR INR SAUNDERS

CAIRO FOR ATHERTON

E.O.11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: OVIP(VANCE, CYRUS R.)
SUBJ: CAIRO CONFERENCE

REF: (A) USDEL CAIRO 0021, (B) TEL AVIV 10685

1. AGREE WITH ROY ATHERTON THAT FORTHCOMING BEGIN-SADAT MEETING EFFECTIVELY FINESSES NEED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF HOW TO HANDLE DAYAN'S SUGGESTION FOR A MEETING WITH BUTROS GHALI. I AM SEEING DAYAN EARLY TOMORROW MORNING (DEC. 20) AND, IF HE SHOULD RAISE ISSUE (WHICH I DOUBT), WILL TRY TO WALTZ AROUND IT.

2. RE SUGGESTION THAT WE KEEP DAYAN INFORMED OF OUR APPRECIATION OF DEVELOPMENTS AT CAIRO CONFERENCE (PARA 6, REF B), INTENTION IS NOT TO PUT ROY IN THE MIDDLE BETWEEN DAYAN AND BEN-ELISSAR. I SIMPLY THINK THERE IS MERIT IN MAKING CERTAIN THAT DAYAN IS FULLY AWARE OF OUR APPRAISAL OF WHAT IS HAPPENING. IF OUR ANALYSIS COINCIDES WITH BEN-ELISSAR'S REPORTING, SO MUCH THE BETTER. IF IT DOES

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NOT, THEN I WOULD THINK BOTH WE AND DAYAN OUGHT TO BE AWARE OF IT.

3. WE HAVE LITTLE TO OFFER ON THE DAYAN-BEN ELISSAR RELATIONSHIP. THE FACT IS, WE THINK IT IS NEARLY NONEXISTENT. PRIOR TO BEN-ELISSAR'S DEPARTURE FOR CAIRO, DAYAN LOST NO OCCASION TO MAKE POINT THAT HE WAS

STILL IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND, BY IMPLICATION, THAT BEN-ELISSAR SHOULD NOT FORGET THIS. WE WERE TOLD BY ONE GOOD SOURCE THAT DAYAN BRUTALIZED BEN-ELISSAR'S NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS, PRESUMABLY TO UNDERScore THIS FACT. BASED ON OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH BEN-ELISSAR AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN CAIRO CONFERENCE PRREPARATIONS, WE HAVE STRONG IMPRESSION THAT BEN-ELISSAR'S AUTHORITY AND ROOM FOR MANEUVER ARE VERY LIMITED. ON THE OTHER HAND, HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH BEGIN IS SUCH THAT HE CAN REACH HIM DIRECTLY AT ANY TIME. WHETHER BEN-ELISSAR WILL USE THIS RELATIONSHIP TO BROADEN HIS MANDATE OR TO CIRCUM-VENT DAYAN, WE HAVE NO PRESENT WAY OF KNOWING.

4. WE ARE ALSO NOT CERTAIN HOW BEN-ELISSAR IS HANDLING COMMUNICATIONS WITH JERUSALEM. WHETHER DAYAN'S OFFICE IS AN ADDRESSEE FOR EVERYTHING IS DEBATABLE. WE DOUBT IT. IN ANY CASE, WE SUSPECT THAT THE CAIRO CONFERENCE LEASH ON BOTH DAYAN AND BEN-ELISSAR IS SECURELY IN BEGIN'S GRIP, AND THAT BOTH ARE HEELING TO HIS EVERY COMMAND. VIETS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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